



## President Rich Santa Ignites Action at NATCA in Washington 2024

On Wednesday, NATCA President Rich Santa fired up the crowd at NATCA in Washington 2024, rallying our passionate NATCAvists for a week of empowerment and action.

Our mission: To ignite, empower, and enlighten NATCA's members. Legislative activism is crucial for our Union's success in advocating for our members and our profession. This week, we're sharpening our strategies to continue our great legacy of NATCA's influence on Capitol Hill.



Dive deeper into our agenda with the NiW Today 2024 book — available now on the [NiW web page](#).

## NiW Roll Call: Uniting NATCA Members in Tradition and Teamwork

Our dynamic NATCA National Legislative Committee Regional Representatives are thrilled to represent their colleagues during the roll call at # NATCA in Washington 2024! With representatives from all nine geographic regions and Region X, our team is geared up to engage with Congress and champion the needs of the National Airspace System and its operators.

Drawing inspiration from the U.S. Air Force's fighter pilot tradition, our roll call is a powerful ritual that fosters trust and camaraderie. This practice, rooted in combat aviation's critical need for cohesion and mutual support, is our pledge to not only unite in advocacy but also to stand ready to support each other through thick and thin. It's about strengthening our bonds and fostering an environment of trust and friendship, essential for effective teamwork.



***Pictured above, left to right:*** President Rich Santa, Region X Legislative Rep. Jason Holland, Western Pacific Region Legislative Rep. Juan Serna-Spuler, Southwest Region Legislative Rep. Corey Soignet, Southern Region Legislative Rep. Jenny Chhetri, Northwest Mountain Region Legislative Alternate Matt Scala, New England Region Legislative Rep. Jamie Green, Great Lakes Region Legislative Rep. Erin Phelps, Eastern Region Legislative Rep. Dave Romano, Central Region Legislative Rep. Lisa Cunningham, Alaskan Region Legislative Rep. Rob Kindred, NLC Vice Chair Allison Schwaegel, NLC Chair David Skarphol, Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge



*Pictured above, left to right: President Rich Santa, Region X Legislative Alternate Dawn Forde, Western Pacific Legislative Alternate Christina Wilcko, Southwest Region Legislative Alternate Cory Hajicek, Northwest Mountain Region Legislative Alternate Matt Scala, Eastern Region Legislative Alternate Natelie Chappell, Great Lakes Region Legislative Alternate Randall Anderson, New England Region Legislative Alternate Nicholas Monahan, Central Region Legislative Alternate Jami Davis, Alaskan Region Legislative Alternate Aaron Novak, NLC Chair David Skarphol, NLC Vice Chair Allison Schwaegel, Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge*

## **Andre Jean (Boston TRACON, A90) Honored with 2024 Trish Gilbert Legislative Activism Award**

NATCA takes immense pride in celebrating the unwavering dedication and spirit of our members who excel in legislative activism. Since 2009, at the annual NATCA in Washington event, we have bestowed the prestigious National Legislative Activism Award to honor such commitment.

This year, NATCA President Rich Santa and EVP Andrew LeBovidge joined National Legislative Committee (NLC) Chair David Skarphol and NLC Vice Chair Allison Schwaegel in bestowing the honor of this award on former New England Region Legislative Rep. Andre Jean (Boston TRACON, A90).



*Pictured, left to right: NLC Chair David Skarphol, NLC Vice Chair Allison Schwaegel, Andre Jean, President Rich Santa, Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge*

In 2010, in recognition of her outstanding contributions and as a tribute during her inaugural year as Executive Vice President, this accolade was aptly renamed the Trish Gilbert Legislative Activism Award. Named after one of the most influential activists in NATCA's history, this award annually recognizes an individual whose extraordinary efforts and fervent dedication to legislative activism embody the spirit of serving the Union. Each recipient of this award has not only shown a profound commitment to our causes but has also taken significant action that sets them apart as true champions of our mission.

## **NiW Welcomes House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (N.Y.-08)**

NATCA was thrilled to welcome House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (N.Y.-08) to NATCA in Washington 2024. Jeffries spoke to the nearly 400 NATCA members, gathering in D.C. for a week of critical advocacy, letting our members hear from one of the leading voices in Congress.



Currently serving his sixth term, Jeffries holds the esteemed position of House Democratic Leader, having been unanimously elected by his peers in November 2022. This makes him the highest-ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives.

Jeffries's record of commitment to our Union and our legislative goals underscores the deep connection between NATCA's advocacy work and our broader national legislative agenda. His participation at the event not only energized our members but also reinforced the importance of our ongoing collaboration with key policymakers.

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## **NiW Welcomes U.S. Representative Sharice Davids (Kan.-03)**

NATCA was honored to have U.S. Representative Sharice Davids (Kan.-03) address our members at NATCA in Washington, who are gathered in D.C. for a week of advocacy and action on Capitol Hill.



Rep. Davids was raised by a single mother and Army veteran. She worked through community college and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, eventually earning a law degree from Cornell. A first-generation college graduate, her background in economic and community development was further shaped by her time as a White House Fellow under President Obama. She is one of the first two Native American women in Congress.

Rep. Davids serves on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Aviation Subcommittee. As a friend of NATCA, she has been a strong advocate for FAA Reauthorization.

## **NiW Welcomes FAA Deputy Administrator Katie Thomson**

The participants of NATCA in Washington 2024 welcomed FAA Deputy Administrator Katie Thomson. Nearly 400 of our Union's members are at NATCA in Washington for a week of pivotal advocacy and legislative action on Capitol Hill.



Thomson, appointed in June 2023, has over 30 years of experience in global aviation and transportation law and leadership. Before her current role, she served as the FAA Chief of Staff, providing guidance on aviation policy and managing resource programs. Thomson also held the position of Director for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), where she managed the implementation of substantial transportation programs.

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## **Staying Safe Online: NATCA Members Learn to Navigate the Hatch Act at NiW**



At NATCA in Washington, our members heard a critical and engaging briefing and question-and-answer session on the Hatch Act. Special Counsel to NATCA's President Eugene Freedman, along with Deputy Chief at the Office of Special Counsel Erica Hamrick, highlighted the stark realities of social media missteps. A single misguided "like," "share," or "retweet" could lead to removal from federal employment, including positions at the FAA. Our experts made it clear: Ignorance is no shield against the serious repercussions of violating the Hatch Act. Their dynamic presentation armed our NATCAvists with the knowledge needed to navigate these waters safely.

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## **NiW Hosts Key Political Experts Discussing the Road Ahead**

On Wednesday afternoon at NATCA in Washington, NATCA Director of Government Affairs Josh Nassar led an engaging panel discussion with Vice President of Lake Research Partners Meryl O'Bryan and House Majority Political Action Committee Senior Advisor Brad Komar, focusing on the 2024 Presidential election's evolving political landscape and what it means for NATCA members.





Meryl O'Bryan applies her expertise from Lake Research Partners to support Democratic campaigns at multiple levels, combining her academic foundation in Cognitive Psychology and her Ph.D. work in psycholinguistics to analyze voter behavior and decision-making. Her approach helps tailor strategies that resonate with constituents, an approach highly relevant for understanding legislative impacts on aviation and labor rights.

Brad Komar brings a wealth of campaign experience from his roles at House Majority PAC and as a campaign manager for high-profile candidates like Ralph Northam and John Hickenlooper. His deep understanding of political operations and campaign strategies across various states provides NATCA members with insights into navigating political advocacy effectively to safeguard and advance their professional interests in a complex political environment.

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## **Capture the Action: Share Your #NATCAinWashington Moments**

As NATCA members engage with members of Congress and their staff this week, we'd love to see your snapshots! Please send your photos to [publicaffairs@natca.org](mailto:publicaffairs@natca.org) and share them on social media using the hashtag #NATCAinWashington.

# Send us your Congressional Meeting photos



Send photos to  
[publicaffairs@natca.org](mailto:publicaffairs@natca.org)



Don't forget to tag NATCA: @NATCA on Facebook and Twitter and @NATCANational on Instagram.

When you send your photos, please include your name, facility, and the identities of everyone in the picture so we can feature them across NATCA's communication platforms.

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